

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **September 26, 2006**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 11

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Naming of the Northwest Expressway (Route 501 Bypass) as the “Desmond T. Doss Memorial Highway”**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution to name the Northwest Expressway (Route 501 Bypass) as the “Desmond T. Doss Memorial Highway” from Old Forest Road to Boonsboro Road for a total of 3.3 miles.

SUMMARY: The City has received an application from the Veterans’ Organizations in Lynchburg requesting that the Northwest Expressway (Route 501 Bypass) be name the “Desmond T. Doss Memorial Highway.”

Mr. Doss was born and raised in Lynchburg. He was a Seventh-Day Adventist who was called upon to serve his country in 1942. A Medal of Honor was awarded to Mr. Doss for his actions on the island of Okinawa on May 1, 1945. Due to attrition he was the only medic available on that Saturday, his holy day. After asking God’s forgiveness for breaking his vow he continued single handedly to rescue 75 wounded members of the 30th Infantry. Mr. Doss died on March 23, 2006.

All of the Veterans’ Organizations in Lynchburg feel that this “homegrown hero” is worthy to be recognized and remembered.

The Traffic Engineering staff discussed this matter with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). VDOT indicated that they do not get involved in the naming of the locally-maintained roads, therefore, this is a local action. Traffic Engineering staff supports the request.

PRIOR ACTION(S): September 26: Physical Development Committee

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

CONTACT(S): Melva Walker – 455-3916
Gerry Harter – 455-3935

ATTACHMENT(S):
Resolution
Policy for naming city-owned properties
Naming Application

REVIEWED BY: lkp

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Expressway (Route 501 Bypass) be named the “Desmond T. Doss Memorial Highway” from Old Forest Road to Boonsboro Road for a total of 3.3 miles.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

118L



A POLICY FOR THE NAMING OF CITY OWNED PROPERTIES, FACILITIES, STREETS & STRUCTURES

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June 2,2000

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Overview

In an effort to formalize a cohesive naming policy and make that policy more understandable, the City of Lynchburg has established a series of guidelines and an application to assist the general public, City employees, and local government members. Included within this document are representative examples of histories of some named Lynchburg facilities.





A POLICY FOR THE NAMING OF CITY OWNED PROPERTIES, FACILITIES, STREETS & STRUCTURES

The City of Lynchburg has a comprehensive program to safeguard City owned properties, facilities, and structures while satisfying the economic, recreation, and transportation needs of the community. It is important that suitable names be chosen for City Owned properties or facilities. The following guidelines shall serve as policy on this matter.

1. Requests to name or rename City owned properties, facilities, and structures shall be made in writing to the Department of Community Planning & Development, whereupon a Naming Request Application shall be transferred to the individual, organization, and/or corporation.
2. The person(s) who submitted the request shall provide background information into the rationale behind the request, including biographical information (if to be named after a person). Any letters from appropriate organizations and individuals, which provide evidence of substantial local support for the proposal, shall be submitted at that time.
3. All suggestions for the naming of City owned properties, facilities, streets & structures shall be submitted to the Director of the Department of Community Planning & Development (or their designee) for cursory review and distribution. Furthermore, the Director of Community Planning & Development shall forward all applications to the Director of the Department responsible for management/operation of that particular area, for initial acceptance or rejection, with a recommendation being transmitted to the City Council for approval.
4. As a general policy, City owned properties, facilities, streets & structures shall be named in accordance with geographical, cultural, historical, or ecological features indigenous to the site or to the immediate vicinity of the site. Facilities may be named for an individual or corporation under the following conditions:
 - Where the individual or corporation has made a significant gift of land or money to the City, or
 - For an individual, living or deceased, who has made a significant contribution to the City of Lynchburg.

5. Recreational facilities or designated areas within a park (i.e., trails, bridges, etc.) may be named for a corporation, organization, or an individual(s), living or deceased, who:
 - Has made a significant contribution to the protection and/or enrichment of a natural, cultural, educational, or horticultural resources of the City of Lynchburg, or
 - Has substantially contributed to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities within the City of Lynchburg, or
 - Has made a significant contribution to the betterment of a specific park, consistent with currently accepted best management practices and standards for the individual property in question.
6. In support of this policy, nominations for naming of City owned properties, facilities, streets & structures shall be evaluated on the basis of the above criteria and upon appropriate documentation.
7. To request the renaming of a City street, by anyone other than the City, the procedure for naming or renaming any street within the city limits on or after the twenty-sixth day of July, 1977, shall be as provided in the City ordinance
8. All costs associated with the naming, including the cost of any recording necessary and the cost of signage shall be paid by the person(s), organization, and/or corporation submitting the request. This cost may be waived by the City Council.
9. As a general policy, a named facility will retain that name as long as it exists. However, if a name is designated for a facility associated with a specific activity and that activity is subsequently changed, the name may be applied to a similarly used facility, if possible, and if not, to another facility
10. Lynchburg City Council shall have the right to make decisions that support the best interests of the City of Lynchburg, and shall either approve or reject the recommendation.

